

Hi Everyone,

Do you all feel that we have had enough heat this summer? For the first time since we are here, I prefer to look at the garden from inside the house. I just love the AC. To my amazement, the few times I have been working outdoors, the plants and shrubs seem to be doing OK. The sprinklers are doing a fine job.

Listening to the forecast for the rest of the week will bring us cooler temps and I know that I will be out there slaving again and happy to be there!

September is a good time to to clean-up the garden, plant new shrubs or trees, transplant, and get ready for the Fall and Winter season. It is important to add potash (0-0-22) to your plants and they are good to go.

#### **Lawns:**

- Fertilize warm season grasses (St. Augustine, centipede, zoysia, and Bermudagrass) for the last time this season.
- Most grasses require a soil of pH 6.0 - 6.5 to absorb nutrient uptake. They also need more nitrogen than other plants and 10-10-10 fertilizer is best.
- Lawns will now be adding root growth.
- Treat lawns for grubs
- Seed at temps between 60 to 80 degrees.

#### **Trees and Shrubs:**

- This is the best time to be planting new shrubs and trees. Prepare planting hole adequately with organic matter; water hole before placing plant; place plant and water in thoroughly. Less watering is required at this time of year, but you still must maintain the plant with H<sub>2</sub>O.
- When planting do not fertilize with anything else but 0-0-22.
- Good time to start mulching for the fall/winter months.
- Great time to start taking cuttings.

#### **Houseplants:**

- Now is a good time to prepare your houseplants to come back into the house. Re-potting, clean them up, trim-off dead branches etc., and check for insects. I have already started this process and I just marvel about the growth they have gained over the summer. Unfortunately, some of the plants have gotten so big that I am severely pruning them and have lots of cuttings if you might want some. Just call.
- Remember that all houseplants should be inside before October 15th.

#### **Prune:**

- Most plants should have been pruned by now; however, you can still prune evergreens only to shape.
- Remove any dead limbs.
- Be sure to clean-up well under your plantings.

#### **Fertilize:**

- You can lightly fertilize azaleas and rhododendrons.
- Never fertilize any plants that are stressed from the weather.
- Do not fertilize newly planted shrubs or trees. Can use 0-0-22 for root growth.

This is a good time to divide perennials. Divide and transplant daylilies and iris.  
Plant peonies now in an area with light shade.  
Give mums a light liquid fertilizer weekly until fall blooms come.

This is a good time to get loads of late-season color. Dahlias are perfect for this time of year. They come in practically every color (not blue), have a wide range of shapes and grow in many different heights. The taller the plant - the less flowers produced. They require full sun, good drainage and you do not need rich soil. The smaller the dahlia the more it blooms. Pinch back after the plant develops three sets of leave for more flower growth.

Enjoy the cooler months in the garden and if there are any questions do not hesitate to contact me at:  
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Barb